

IN THE SPECIFICATION

Replace the paragraph beginning at page 7, line 10 with the following rewritten paragraph.

Fig. 1 shows various operations for solving a linear system of equations based on the presently preferred method of preconditioning, that in turn is based on reduced coupling. Fig. 1 may also be viewed as representing a block diagram of a computational system that generates and uses the preconditioner in accordance with this invention. ~~Fig~~ Fig. 1 may also be viewed as a logic flow diagram that illustrates the operation of a computer program having program instructions that are executable by at least one digital processing apparatus, and that is stored in a machine-readable medium, such as in memory chips, a disk, a tape, or any suitable computer program instruction storage media.

Replace the paragraph beginning at page 10, line 13 with the following rewritten paragraph:

In order to solve the system of equations $Ax=f$ implied by the mesh generator 20, the linear system matrix A from block 30, a vector f of the boundary conditions on each element from block 60, and the preconditioner function K from block 50 are combined in an iterative solver 70. The resulting output of the iterative solver 70 is the approximate solution x 80. The operation of the iterative solver 70, for example CG, with the preconditioner function K proceeds as follows: